

Mr. Briggs described, during a conversational discussion of waters impregnated with carbonate of lime, a recent patent for preventing incrustations upon steam boilers.

The subject of solidifying coal dust for fuel was then discussed by a number of the members present.

Pending nominations 540, 541, 542 were read.

On motion it was ordered that the Proceedings and the Transactions from the commencement of vol. xiii be sent to the New Hampshire Historical Society.

And the Society was adjourned.

Stated Meeting, November 17, 1865.

Present, fifteen members.

Dr. WOOD, President, in the Chair.

Prof. Porter was introduced to the presiding officer and took his seat.

A letter from Mr. Robert Patterson to the Librarian, respecting a donation of books from his father's library, was read.

Donations for the Library were received from the Russian Academy, and Observatory, the Austrian Geographical Society, and Geological Institute, the Berlin Geological and Botanical Societies, the Emden Natural Historical Society, the Frankfort Zoological Society, the Royal Academy at Madrid, the London Astronomical and Antiquarian Societies, the Montreal Natural Historical Society, Mr. Walling, of New York, the Franklin Institute, and the Board of Trade of Chicago.

Dr. Gross read an obituary notice of the late Dr. Short, of Louisville, Kentucky.

The death of Judge Wm. L. Storrs, of Connecticut, was

made known to the Society, by a letter from Prof. Whitney, of New Haven.

Mr. Lesley communicated certain facts concerning the traditional smelting of lead by the aborigines.

Prof. Trego doubted the ability of the Indians to reduce galena, and their use or knowledge of lead, until the coming of the whites among them.

Prof. Porter described a remarkable locality within the city limits, on a reclaimed portion of the bank of the Delaware, below the Navy Yard, where, during the last two years, at least ninety species of perhaps seventy genera of plants have been discovered, belonging to the flora of the Carolinas, Florida, and other Gulf States, as far west as New Mexico, and some of them Western plants. They are divided into two groups, growing on the two banks of a narrow lagoon, one bank consisting of refuse heaps from the city, and the other bank formed by ballast heaps thrown from vessels trading coastwise with this port. Some of these botanical waifs have been discovered also growing on similar accumulations thrown upon the opposite or New Jersey shore.

Prof. Porter remarked that the native flora of this part of the United States was rapidly yielding to the inroads of a foreign flora, railroads appearing to be one of the most active agents of naturalization. Plants described by Dr. Gray as rare, have already taken complete possession of the valley of the Susquehanna, and the time may soon come when a large part of our flora will have a foreign character.

Prof. Trego described the sudden apparition of numerous plants, not indigenous to this locality, in the yard of the Moyamensing Prison, introduced, as was supposed, in the wool which the convicts used for manufacturing purposes. Other members testified to the rapidity with which the naturalization of plants is going on.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Board of Officers and members in council, were then read.

Pending nominations 541, 542, and new nominations 543, 544 were read.

Mr. Geo. Christian Schaeffer, lately elected a member, and

whose father, the Rev. C. Schaeffer, was a member of this Society, requested through Mr. Briggs that the proper correction should be made in the published spelling of his family name.

On motion of Dr. Le Conte, the bill of Bowen & Co., for three lithographic plates of Myriapoda, in the sum of three hundred and eighty-two dollars and seventy-two cents, was ordered to be paid by the Treasurer.

And the Society was adjourned.

OBITUARY NOTICE OF CHARLES WILKINS SHORT, M.D.

DR. SHORT was born at Greenville, Woodford County, Kentucky, on the 6th of October, 1794. His father was Peyton Short, of Surry County, Virginia, whose mother, Elizabeth Skipwith, was the daughter of Sir William Skipwith, Baronet. His own mother was Mary Symmes, daughter of John Cleves Symmes, who removed from Long Island to Cincinnati, where, after having occupied various offices of trust and honor, he died in 1814. Dr. Short had, beside a brother and sister who both died in infancy, one brother, the late Judge John Cleves Short, and one sister, the wife of Dr. Benjamin Winslow Dudley, the eminent Kentucky surgeon. He had also several half brothers and sisters, his father having married a second time.

The early part of Dr. Short's life was marked by no event of particular importance. It was noted chiefly for his exemplary conduct and love of Nature, to the development of which the wild scenery of his native village was eminently conducive. With the pleasant memories of this much-loved home of his childhood his heart was filled to his dying day. It furnished the theme for youthful poems and the picture for his boyish pencil. Greenfield was for many years the country residence of his father, being a farm of several thousand acres, in one of the most beautiful and romantic regions of Kentucky, so distinguished for the variety and grandeur of its scenery. It was here, no doubt, that he first imbibed his love for the particular science which he afterwards cultivated with so much ardor and success, and which contributed so greatly not only to his happiness but his reputation.

His primary education was obtained at the school of Mr. Joshua Fry, a celebrated teacher, under whose training were reared some of